GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:264
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2015
Nyaya Panchayats
Teacher Smt. P.K.Sreemathi

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken adequate steps to dispense affordable justice at village levels, including setting up of Nyaya Panchayats in every Gram Panchayat, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has finalised the blue print of the Nyaya Panchayats Bill;

(c) if so, the details and the present status thereof; and

(d) the follow-up action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH)

A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 264 TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2015 REGARDING NYAYA PANCHAYATS

(a)

(b), (c) & (d) 'Panchayats' being a State subject, some of the State Governments have made provisions in the State Panchayati Raj Acts for establishment of Nyaya Panchayats.

Under 'Entry 11 A' of Concurrent List of Constitution of India in respect of 'Administration of Justice, Constitution and Organization of all Courts except the Supreme Court and the High Courts', the Ministry of Panchayati Raj had prepared a Draft Nyaya Panchayat Bill during 2010 to provide for the establishment of Nyaya Panchayats, at the level of every Gram Panchayat or a cluster of Gram Panchayats, for providing a system of fair and speedy justice, both civil and criminal, to the citizens at their doorsteps.

The Draft Nyaya Panchayat Bill was forwarded to the Ministry of Law and Justice for their inputs. However, the Ministry of Law and Justice has raised a number of points including the basic question of Constitutional validity of bringing in the proposed legislation, etc. There were issues of funding the proposal by the Central Government.

This issue was also discussed with the Secretaries of Panchayati Raj Departments of States in the meeting held on October 29-30, 2015 who expressed their reservations over funding such a huge number of institutions utilizing their own funds. Therefore, at this point of time, a time-frame cannot be fixed for introduction of the Bill in the Parliament. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj will continue discussions with all the stakeholders in this matter.

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